

Aged Care Eden Park response regarding Janet Adams questions

QUESTIONS:

Jillian Adams says her mother Janet was involved in a resident to resident aggression incident in April 2017 with a male resident at Eden Park. She says her mother pushed the man because she had been told he was a paedophile by other residents and she was afraid of him. Ms Adams says the man pushed her back and she fell and broke her hip which required hospital admission and surgery. Do Eden Park's records support this version of events?

The records show that Janet had a history of physical aggression. There is no record as to why she pushed the resident nor is there any record of the resident she pushed being a paedophile. In fact the records indicate the paedophile allegation was made by other residents who were also suffering from cognitive impairment. The resident did respond by pushing her which led to her injury and hospitalisation.

Were any Eden Park staff members present during this act of resident to resident aggression? If so what did they see and how did they respond?

The records show that staff were in the vicinity at the time. Immediate action was taken to notify other staff who rang the RN. A medical assessment was made and an ambulance called.

When did the incident occur and when was the family notified of the incident? Ms Adams says it was around 7.30pm when they were notified.

According to the reports, the incident occurred at 5pm and a daughter of Janet's was contacted at approximately 7pm.

Did Eden Park notify the Commonwealth Department of Health about the incident? If not, why not?

The records show that all required procedures were followed and the incident was documented in the homes Consolidated Register 2017.

What investigation did Eden Park undertake into the causes of the resident to resident aggression and what changes were made as a result?

The records indicate all appropriate steps were undertaken by the previous management.

Ms Adams claims there was no evidence of an investigation into the incident and that it was treated as a normal occurrence by dementia residents and when her mother was released from hospital she returned to her room which was close to the male resident with whom the act of aggression had occurred. What is your response?

We are unable to comment about the actions of the previous owner. However, the records indicate that on return from the hospital, Janet was moved from her room to another room some distance away by staff and family.

Ms Adams claims that her mother quickly deteriorated physically after breaking her hip, was much less active and was given large doses of Endone which left her unresponsive and largely bed bound. She claims that the fall contributed to her death a few months later in October 2017. She believes her mother's death should have been referred to the Coroner. What is your response?

We are unable to make a comment about much of this. However, the records indicate Janet died 6 months after returning from hospital. Also, just for the record, in such circumstances it is not up to the home to refer such a matter to the coroner. This is the responsibility of the doctor issuing the death certificate.

Ms Adams claims Eden Park did not take the issue of resident to resident aggression as seriously as it should have been given it is a significant risk to resident safety. What is your response?

We are unable to comment about this.